IV. The Dewan opened the Assembly with the following

ADDRESS.

"Gentlemen,

PRELIMINARY.

Under command of His Highness the Maha Raja, I have very great pleasure in welcoming you to the Sixteenth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Copies of the Administration Report for 1094 will, as usual, be placed in your hands from which you will be able to see in detail how the administration of the State was conducted during the year.

2. Personnel.—Since the last Session of the Assembly, there have been some noteworthy changes in the higher ranks of the public service. Lieut. Col. R. DeL. Faunce, who was Commandant of the Nair Brigade from November 1916, reverted to the British service in May 1919. This was the second time when Col. Faunce was placed in charge of the Military Department of the State, and during this period his experience was of great help to the Government in connection with the enlistment of recruits to the Indian Army. Captain E. W. Antram, Battalion Commandant of the Brigade, was also called back to the British service in May 1919. Since the close of 1094 M. E., Dr. H. Campbell Perkins, Ag. Darbar Physician, has proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement, after a long and honourable career in the State service. Mr. N. Raman Pillai, Dewan Peishkar, Padmanabhapuram, whose varied service extending over a period of thirty-four years was characterised by efficiency, integrity and a lofty sense of duty, has retired on a well-earned pension. Mr. D. J. Sloss, the eminent scholar who was the senior Professor of English in His Highness the Maha Raja's College, has resigned his place under the weight of a heavy domestic affliction. It is also my sorrowful duty to record the untimely death of Mr. B. Walker, the well-known philologist who was the junior Professor of English in the College. The College is all the poorer for the loss of these two distinguished Professors. Another heavy loss to the service which I deeply deplore is that caused by the sudden death of Rao Bahadur R. Mahadeva Aiyar, Chief Secretary to Government. His ripe experience, sound judgment and zealous devotion to duty were valuable assets to the Government in the discharge of their onerous work. His two important official publications, *viz.*, the Kodayar Irrigation Cess Report and the Travancore Land Revenue Manual, are works of great practical value.

3. War and Peace.—The great world-conflict is at an end and Germany has finally ratified the peace terms presented to her. The victory to Great Britain and her Allies in this struggle was so marvellously sudden and so magnificently complete that history has just cause to view it as a moral triumph in which justice and righteousness have, by their inherent force, overthrown the powers of darkness and evil. It is not my purpose to recount here the services rendered by Travancore to the imperial cause during the last quinquennium. I may, however, avail myself of this occasion to convey the cordial thanks of the Government to all ladies and gentlemen, both official and non-official, who have contributed to make our war-efforts a success. One duty now remains, and I look upon it as a debt of honour. Various measures of a beneficial nature have been devised by Government to alleviate the sufferings of the families of those Travancoreans who, while in active service, have died or have been permanently incapacitated. Our obligation to these families is of a solemn nature, and I repeat the exhortation which I have already made to all Heads of Departments and Offices to construe those measures liberally and apply them sympathetically, so as to best fulfil the intentions of the Government in this matter. You are aware that an organisation under the designation of the 'Travancore Soldiers' Committee' has been recently constituted to work in co-operation with the Madras Soldiers' Board. This Committee deals, among other subjects, with questions connected with land rewards or grants, preferential treatment in respect of Government employment, educational concessions for children, and the after-care of wounded and incapacitated soldiers. I hope that this Committee will be of great help to the families of deceased and disabled soldiers in Travancore.

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